

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the pressure breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device comprising a nasal prong or pair of nasal prongs formed with a plurality of perforations thereby providing the flow of said gas mixture from said cannula to said patient, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) The nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the tubing is coiled.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) The nasal cannula according to claim 1 wherein the tubing is of a ductile metal or alloy.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) The nasal cannula according to claim 3, wherein the alloy is a cupro-nickel alloy.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the tubing is surrounded by a protective sheath.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Currently amended) An apparatus for administering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen including means for supplying the

breathable gas mixture at a high pressure and a nasal cannula comprising a length of tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device comprising a nasal prong or pair of nasal prongs formed with a plurality of perforations thereby providing the flow of said gas mixture from said cannula to said patient, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the said means includes a gas cylinder in which the breathable gas mixture is stored under pressure.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains from 70 to 80% by volume of helium and from 20 to 30% by volume of oxygen.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture is stored in the cylinder at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains 72% by volume of helium, balance oxygen.